

NOTES ON THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOME BIRDS IN SRI LANKA AS LISTED IN S. D. RIPLEY (1982) "A SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF NEPAL, BHUTAN, BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA.

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These notes refer to omissions, inaccuracies and changes relating to the status and distribution of some birds in Sri Lanka as given not only in Ripley's SYNOPSIS, but also in the 10 volume HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN by Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley (1968-74; also 2nd Edition Vols. 1 - 5). The list of amendments is quite appreciable. In 1981, when I first had occasion to look through Vol. 2 of the 2nd Edition of the HANDBOOK, I wrote to Dr Salim Ali and the contents of that letter were subsequently published in the *JBNHS* (Hoffmann 1983). That note only dealt with some waders, whereas the present paper has taken account of the full range of species of birds which are found in Sri Lanka. Characteristically, waterbirds, especially waders, provide by far the greatest number of new records and new information about distribution and status.

I have edited the Ceylon Bird Club Notes (CBCN) since 1971, and it is chiefly on the basis of these monthly Notes that the present paper was written, though much of the information is founded on my own observations. The monthly Ceylon Bird Club Notes (50-70 foolscap pages of stenciled material per annum since 1944) are mailed to the Bombay Natural History Society, and Dr. Dillon Ripley is a subscriber. It is suggested that more attention be paid to these Notes which come with an annual Species Index.

In the following text, the numbers given against each species are identical with those in the Synopsis and the Handbook. The relevant statement in the Synopsis is quoted within inverted commas.

7. **Whitefronted Shearwater** (*Procellaria leucomelaena*).

"Accidental. A single specimen was obtained off Sri Lanka in 1884".

A sight record off Talaimannar in September 1978 (van den Berg 1982).

13a. **Jouanin's Gadfly Petrel** (*Bulweria fallax*).

"May occur in Indian waters"

Sri Lanka not mentioned. One was collected at Colombo in January 1978 (Kotagama 1980). New record.

14. **Wilson's Storm Petrel** (*Oceanites oceanicus oceanicus*).

"....Sri Lanka, where it is apparently common in summer (May-November, Gulf of Mannar)".

Considerable numbers of this petrel accompany the annual north-south post-breeding mass dispersal of Brown-winged Terns (*Sterna anaethetus*) along the west coast of Sri Lanka, first discovered and described by me in September 1972 (CBCN 1972: 42, 1982: 55-57, see also van den Berg 1982).

25. **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster plotus*).

"... recorded off the Malabar and Sri Lanka coasts in the north-east monsoon".

A straggler to the Sri Lanka coasts; seen in Colombo in February-April, also east coast and as part of the annual post-breeding dispersal of Brown-winged Terns in August-September.

50. **Indian Reef Heron** (*Egretta gularis schistacea*).

"The seaboard of ...northwestern Sri Lanka".

The Reef Heron has in recent years been seen on all coasts of Sri Lanka, in Colombo, Bentota, the Hambantota area in the south and the east coast.

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59. **Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*).
Sri Lanka not mentioned. A specimen now in the Colombo Museum, was obtained at Panadura on the west coast on 14.10.1985 (CBCN 1985: 49). A probable sight record in March 1987 at Deniyaya. New record.
63. **White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*).
Sri Lanka not mentioned. Rare winter vagrant to Sri Lanka. Noted already in last century (Legge) but several reliable sight records in last 25 years in different parts of the low country, mostly in the south (CBCN).
66. **Blacknecked Stork** (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*).
"Resident ... Sri Lanka".
This bird has become very rare in Sri Lanka, only a few breeding pairs being known from the Yala National Park complex; the nest has never been found. An endangered species in Sri Lanka.
68. **Lesser Adjutant** (*Leptoptilos javanicus*).
"Resident ... Sri Lanka".
Declining to the extent of becoming endangered due to loss of undisturbed breeding sites.
71. **Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*).
"A migrant to Sri Lanka".
A breeding resident in the last century, both in the North and South. Then it disappeared and was not seen for many years. In the last 3 decades the species has been observed in increasing numbers throughout the year and may actually again be breeding in the Kalametiya Sanctuary (south coast near Tangalle).
73. **Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)
"Resident ... Sri Lanka".
Formerly mainly a winter visitor in varying but sometimes large numbers from the Rann of Kachchh. Of late recorded throughout the year but not known to breed in Sri Lanka. Suitable feeding sites more and more subject to disturbance and conversion into salterns or aquaculture projects (e.g. Karagan Lewaya at Hambantota, salterns at Elephant Pass).
103. **Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*).
"Sparse and irregular in Sri Lanka".
Till 1980 only 4 records, then in November several hundred were seen in the Jaffna Peninsula (CBCN 1980: 56). Over 10,000 were recorded in the Jaffna Peninsula during the 1983 mid-winter waterfowl count. In 1984 there were over 12,000 in Jaffna and 6,000 in the Mannar area. It would appear that large numbers of this duck now regularly visit the North of Sri Lanka during the winter; very few, however, penetrate to the south of the country, in contrast to Pintail and Garganey.
111. **Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*).
"Migrant to Sri Lanka (one record)".
There are two records, the second from Giant's Tank near Mannar in 1962 (Phillips 1978).
126. **Blyth's Baza** (*Aviceda jerdoni*); in Sri Lanka called Legge's or Ceylon Brown Baza.
"In evergreen biotope up to c.900 m".
Most recent sightings of this raptor were in well shaded tea areas, where the bird also breeds, and montane forest at altitudes between 1800 and 1900 m (Nuwara Eliya).
133. **Pariah Kite** (*Milvus migrans govinda*).
"Resident throughout the subcontinent and Sri Lanka".
In Sri Lanka this species is confined to the coastal areas of the north of the island (Mannar, Jaffna) and very rarely is a straggler reported from other coastal points. Most birds seem to be winter migrants from South India.

151. **Besra Sparrow-Hawk** (*Accipiter virgatus besra*).
 "In heavy evergreen and moist-deciduous forest".
 In Sri Lanka this species is also found in the Dry Zone monsoon forest (dry deciduous forest).
153. **Longlegged Buzzard** (*Buteo rufinus*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. A first-year bird of this species was closely observed in January 1988 at Horton Plains (2100 m) by Ben King with James and Robert Clements. A new record.
161. **Crested Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus cirrhatu andamanensis*).
 "In deciduous and semi-evergreen forest".
 This species is found in Sri Lanka in all climatic zones which include heavy evergreen forests in the Wet and Hill Zones.
187. **Egyptian Vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus gingiianus*).
 "Straggler to Sri Lanka".
 A single reliable record in 1874 (Phillips 1978). Not seen since.
211. **Shahin Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus peregrinator*).
 "Resident ... Sri Lanka. Affects rugged hills".
 This handsome and quite rare race of the Peregrine Falcon has of late also taken to towns; for instance individuals can be observed in Colombo for months on end. Whether it also breeds in towns is not known.
242. **Painted Partridge** (*Francolinus pictus watsoni*).
 "Resident. Sri Lanka in the dry zone of Uva Province, up to c. 1200 m".
 This endemic subspecies has become very rare, as natural habitats in its former stronghold, the rolling grass hills (patnas) of the Uva Plateau (average elevation 1000 m), have all but disappeared since the war, due to heavy settlement and intensive vegetable cultivation on even the steepest slopes. Still found in the small Gal Oya National Park and west of it in the eastern foothills. An endangered species.
246. **Grey Partridge** (*Francolinus pondicerianus pondicerianus*).
 "Sri Lanka in the Jaffna Peninsula and northwestern coastal islands".
 This partridge has extended its range southward along the west coast as far as about Chilaw, and in the east is found as far as Mullaitivu. Like many birds (e.g. ducks and waders) and other wildlife, this species profits from the ethnic trouble which currently plagues Sri Lanka and virtually precludes hunting.
279. **Ceylon Spurfowl** (*Galloperdix bicalcarata*).
 "Resident. Sri Lanka, in the Eastern and Uva Provinces".
 This endemic species is found throughout the Wet Zone in the west and south of the island wherever there is any tall forest left (e.g. Labugama near Colombo, Sinharaja, etc.), right up to the highest hills (e.g. Horton Plains, 2100 m); it is also found in undisturbed forest in the eastern foothills.
350. **Coot** (*Fulica atra atra*).
 "Resident and winter visitor, throughout the subcontinent and Sri Lanka".
 In Sri Lanka this waterbird was first noted in 1924 and has since then been confined to the Giant's Tank area near Mannar. In recent years it has, however, spread to tanks (reservoirs) in the Anuradhapura area, and recently one was seen in the extreme south. Breeding not known to occur but several pairs with young have been observed on a tank near Thirukethiswaram

Temple (Mannar District) in May and July 1984, as well as in June 1985. Thus this species is now a scarce breeding resident in Sri Lanka.

370. **Yellow-wattled Lapwing** (*Vanellus malabaricus*).

"Sri Lanka in the low-country dry zone"

This species is not generally found in the dry zone, but very localized in defined coastal areas (e.g. Yala National Park, Pomparippu plain in Wilpattu National Park, open plains in the Mannar area).

376. **Caspian Plover** (*Charadrius asiaticus asiaticus*).

"Migrant. Recorded from the coast of Bombay, Sri Lanka and Maldive Is.". Until recently there were only two records of this bird in Sri Lanka (Phillips 1978), but in 1985 several were seen in Yala National Park and the Bundala Sanctuary. 6 birds were observed in the Bundala Sanctuary in 1986/87. In winter plumage this species is difficult to identify and is easily mistaken for the Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus atrifrons*), a common winter visitor, and may thus be overlooked.

378. **Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*).

"Winter visitor or straggler. Only a half-dozen records". Sri Lanka not mentioned. Like other rare waders, this bird has been recorded more frequently in the recent past. Phillips (1978) mentions several sight records, the first in 1944, the second in 1973. At least 4 were reliably reported between January and April 1987, 4 in 1986, 7 in 1985 and 4 in 1983. Obviously individuals of this species are also overlooked.

389. **Blacktailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa limosa*).

"Winter visitor to Pakistan and north-

western India... decreasing southwards to the southern peninsula and Sri Lanka".

Considered a migrant to Sri Lanka till after the war. Numbers of regular wintering birds have increased so much in recent years that it must now be regarded as a common and plentiful winter visitor to the coastal regions of the Dry Zone both in the North and South; roosts of up to 5000 have been observed. Today this bird can be seen in winter at every suitable coastal location; non-breeding birds loiter throughout the summer.

403. **Asian Dowitcher** (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*).

Sri Lanka not mentioned. In July 1982 one was seen at Hambantota (CBCN 1982: 28b). A new record.

411. **Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola rusticola*).

"Scarce in Sri Lanka above c. 1500 m". Recently (December 1986) one was obtained in a coastal garden at Colombo (CBCN 1986: 56) and another was seen in March 1987 in a marsh near Colombo (CBCN 1987: 27).

412. **Knot** (*Calidris canutus canutus*).

"Straggler : Sri Lanka". Not as rare as previously thought. In recent years a few are recorded annually, especially from the area around Mannar but also the south (CBCN).

413. **Eastern (or Great) Knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*).

"Isolated records from Assam, Calcutta and Madras". Sri Lanka not mentioned. First sight record of 4 birds by Ben King in March 1981 at Mannar (CBCN 1981: 24). Several in 1983, also at Mannar (CBCN 1983: 38). A new record.

423. **Spoonbilled Sandpiper** (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*).
 "Straggler or very rare winter visitor to the coast of Bangladesh and West Bengal".
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. In March 1978 Ben King recorded a specimen of this species in Bundala Sanctuary (CBCN 1978: 7, 20), and another one was seen in November at Bentota (CBCN 1978: 66) in a small flock of Sanderling, also in December 1979 at Bundala (CBCN 1979: 46). New record.
- 425a. **Buffbreasted Sandpiper** (*Tryngites subruficollis*).
 "Accidental. One specimen record, 5 August 1960 and a sight record, November 1974 from Sri Lanka".
 The specimen is from Kalametiya in the South, and the sight record was from Trincomalee. A further reliable sight record in January 1985 from the Bundala Sanctuary (CBCN 1985:2).
427. **Rednecked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*).
 "One record from Sri Lanka. Pelagic,, on passage, ponds and shallow jheels".
 In recent years this species has been regularly noted during winter, especially in the Bundala Sanctuary. The birds (sometimes as many as 5 or 6 together in small flocks) stay in the same area throughout.
432. **Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).
 "Straggler to Sri Lanka".
 Has become a regular winter visitor in small numbers not only in the North around Mannar, but also in the South (e.g. Bundala Sanctuary).
434. **Crab Plover** (*Dromas ardeola*)
 "Winter visitor to the coasts of Sri Lanka".
 Phillips, in his 1978 Checklist, records it as a scarce breeding resident and states: "Undoubtedly breeds in Ceylon about end of May or earlier, but the eggs have not yet been found". The writer saw a flock of 35 including 6 sub-adults in March 1978 at Devil's Point between Mannar and Jaffna. Mostly observed in the north of Sri Lanka, i.e. Adam's Bridge area, Mannar and north-west coast, but occasionally also in the south.
440. **Indian Courser** (*Cursorius coromandelicus*).
 "Sri Lanka in the low-country dry zone"
 Mostly confined to the arid area around Mannar and coastal islands to the north (e.g. Delft) where its biotope is found.
447. **Pomatorhine Skua** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).
 "Straggler to Sri Lanka (one record)".
 There have been a number of sight records of this species in recent years since I discovered in 1972 that these pelagic kleptoparasites accompany the annual post-breeding dispersal of Brown-winged Terns (*Sterna anaethetus*) along the west coast of Sri Lanka, which usually takes place in August or September (CBCN 1972: 42 et subseq.).
455. **Blackheaded Gull** (*Larus ridibundus ridibundus*).
 "A sight record from Sri Lanka, November 1974".
 Further sight records in December 1976 (Phillips 1978), 1981 February 6 at Talaimannar (CBCN 1981: 17), in March 1978 at Yala National Park (CBCN 1978: 13).
456. **Slenderbilled Gull** (*Larus genei*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. A single bird was seen a few miles out of Talaimannar on the ferry crossing in September 1978 (van den Berg 1982, CBCN 1978: 50, 59a, and 1982: 7). A new record.

465. **Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo tibetana*).
 "Winter visitor to the subcontinent ... and, irregularly, Sri Lanka".
 In recent years (last decade or so) this species has been observed every winter along the coast of Colombo, every winter, and also in the South. In 1980 I discovered a breeding colony on a small bare island of coral debris off the east coast (documented by photographs of birds, nests and eggs, and measurements of eggs) (CBCN 1980: 27-29, 31-32, 39-40, 43). This is the first record of the breeding of this species in the Eurasian tropics, the nearest known sites being at the northern end of the Persian Gulf and high-altitude lakes in Tibet. May now be considered a common and regular winter visitor, probably a summer loiterer and possibly a breeding resident. The race of the breeding terns has not been determined, but could possibly be *S. h. hirundo*.
466. **Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii korustes*).
 "Breeds on islets off the coast of ... Sri Lanka".
 This species is not present in Sri Lanka during the winter months (except for possible loiterers not noted so far), and migrates to Sri Lanka for breeding in April/May/June.
474. **Sooty Tern** (*Sterna fuscata nubilosa*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. Occasional straggler to all coasts, and stormblown even far inland high in the hills. Some also form part of the annual mass migration along the west coast of Brown-winged Terns first reported by me in 1972, and regularly observed since.
479. **Lesser Crested Tern** (*Sterna bengalensis bengalensis*).
 "Occurs commonly along the seaboard of Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka ... practically throughout the year. Keeps to offshore waters".
 Regularly seen in winter on rocks off the seashore at Colombo (and elsewhere), together with other species of terns, December to March, when it disappears after moulting into summer plumage.
480. **Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. Evidence of this species in Sri Lanka was first obtained in 1977 (CBCN 1978: 50). Since then single birds have been noted in winter almost every year till 1986 when 6 birds spent 2 months together with other terns on rocks on the coast at Colombo, and 3 in 1987 (from mid-January to beginning of April). This tern may now be considered a regular winter visitor (from the Caspian Sea) in small numbers; most seem first-year birds.
482. **Whitcapped Noddy** (*Anous tenuirostris*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. There are 3 specimens from Sri Lanka in the Colombo Museum. A new record.
505. **Ceylon Yellow-legged Green Pigeon** (*Treron phoenicoptera phillipsi*).
 "Resident. Sri Lanka in the low-country dry zone".
 Very restricted and localized, mostly known from around Bibile and Nilgala, west of Gal Oya National Park in the eastern foothills.
578. **Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus canorus*).
 "The 2 records from Sri Lanka are from October (one) and undated (one)".
 Actually there are 6 records, all during the winter period, the last two in December in the south of the island (Phillips 1978).

599. **Red-faced Malkoha** (*Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*).
 "Resident. Southern Kerala, southern Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka".
 This species is considered endemic to Sri Lanka. There are 2 south Indian sight records, one from Kerala, the other from Tamil Nadu. Until a specimen is obtained from India, Sri Lankan ornithologists including the late W. W. A. Phillips, prefer to retain the endemic status of this endangered species.
604. **Ceylon Coucal** (*Centropus chlororhynchus*).
 "Resident. Sri Lanka, in humid forest of the SW country wet zone up to c. 750 m."
 This endemic species is rare, very local and declining together with its habitat.
606. **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba stertens*).
 "Also Sri Lanka in the Jaffna and Arippo districts"
 Recently several have been obtained in Colombo and one in Kurunegala (CBCN), probably as a result of the extensive demolition of old buildings. Obviously more widespread than thought earlier, but still rare and endangered.
638. **Jungle Owlet** (*Glaucidium radiatum castanonotum*).
 "Sri Lanka in the low-country wet zone and hills up to c. 1900 m. In moist forest".
 There is evidence that this endemic race, called the Chestnut-backed Owlet, is not confined to the wet zone with moist forest, but is found in the dry zone as well, e.g. recent records from Amparai, east coast, Wilpattu National Park, Yala National Park (CBCN 1987: 4). Some writers regard it as a separate species.
727. **Threetoed Kingfisher** (*Ceyx erithacus erithacus*).
 "Affects shady jungle streamlets in moist-deciduous and evergreen biotope".
 In Sri Lanka now most often found in village gardens, especially coffee groves very close to habitations even in thickly populated areas, e.g. the wider area of Ratnapura. Dashes across roads only a foot or so above ground, resulting in casualties from motor traffic.
739. **Blackcapped Kingfisher** (*Halcyon pileata*).
 "Resident ... Occasional inland ... and in Sri Lanka (a half-dozen records)".
 This Kingfisher is an irregular winter visitor in small numbers to the coasts of Sri Lanka and has been observed more often in recent years. In some winters it is quite numerous (e.g. 1984/85), absent in others.
744. **Chestnutheaded Bee-eater** (*Merops leschenaulti*).
 "Frequents the neighbourhood of streams in mixed deciduous forest ... in Sri Lanka to 1200 m."
 In Sri Lanka often found in tea plantations up to 1400 m. and above.
760. **Broadbilled Roller** (*Eurystomus orientalis irisi*).
 "Resident, perhaps extinct, Sri Lanka in the southern half. Known only from a dozen records, the last in 1950".
 I would be inclined to doubt the existence of a Sri Lankan subspecies which is based mainly on a slight difference in wing length in 6 South Indian and 5 Sri Lankan specimens. In recent years the bird has been rediscovered in its real habitat, the wet evergreen forest of the south-western foothills, e.g. Sinharaja, Kitulgala, Gilimale, Hapugastenna, where it favours open clearings with standing dead trees resulting from shifting culti-

- vation. It is rare but certainly not extinct. There have been many sight records during the last decade. The records referred to in the SYNOPSIS are mostly from an isolated population in riverine habitat in the eastern dry zone.
808. **Little Scalybellied Green Woodpecker** (*Picus myrrecophoneus*).
 "Resident ... Sri Lanka. In semi-evergreen, moist deciduous and sal forest, in plains and foothills up to 1700 m".
 In Sri Lanka often frequents tea estates with shade trees in the eastern hill zone; often descends to ground and cover of tea. Not in wet zone.
817. **Small Yellownaped Woodpecker** (*Picus chlorolophus wellsi*).
 "Resident. Sri Lanka in the low-country wet zone and foothills up to c. 1800 m".
 Also found in well-shaded tea estates and forest in the Uva plateau (dry zone hills around 1000 m).
822. **Ceylon Goldenbacked Woodpecker** (*Dinopium benghalense jaffnense*).
 "Resident. The Jaffna Peninsula and northern Sri Lanka south to Trincomalee, Kekirawa and Puttalam (intergrading with *psarodes*)".
823. **Ceylon Redbacked Woodpecker** (*Dinopium benghalense psarodes*).
 "Resident. Sri Lanka from Puttalam, Kekirawa and Trincomalee southwards, in low-country and hills up to 1700 m".
 The area of overlap between these two endemic races has widened considerably and the boundaries are no longer as definite as the text indicates. Redbacked Woodpeckers have regularly been seen deep in Wilpattu, 30-50 miles further north, and the Goldenbacked has been observed as far south as Chilaw, with hybrids at either extreme.
859. **Blackbacked Woodpecker** (*Chrysocolaptes festivus tantus*).
 "Resident. The northern half of Sri Lanka and the Southern Province, in the low-country dry zone".
 Very local in isolated coconut groves and stands of large trees. Declining.
872. **Singing Bush Lark** (*Mirafra javanica cantillans*).
 "Resident ... and Sri Lanka".
 This species is not known in Sri Lanka.
910. **Collared Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*, probably *diluta* but *ijimae* also possible).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. First noted in January 1976 near Anuradhapura. Since then increasingly seen, especially in the south around Hambantota. Must now be regarded as a regular winter visitor in small (but increasing ?) numbers (CBCN). A new record.
933. **Grey Shrike** (*Lanius excubitor lah-tora*).
 "... an unconfirmed sight record from Sri Lanka".
 There have been several reliable sight records in recent years during the winter months, mostly from the northern half of the country, but also from Yala National Park, Horton Plains (2100 m) and Colombo (CBCN). Appears to have become a regular winter visitor to all zones.
947. **Rufousbacked Shrike** (*Lanius schach caniceps*).
 "Resident ... Sri Lanka in the Jaffna Peninsula".
 The restricted range of this Shrike goes far beyond the Jaffna Peninsula and includes a coastal strip extending from about Chilaw through Mannar to Jaffna and the western offshore islands. Since 1966 it has also been regularly observed at Anuradhapura, well inland (CBCN).

949. **Brown Shrike** (*Lanius cristatus cristatus*).
 "In dry deciduous and semi-evergreen scrub".
 In Sri Lanka this winter visitor may be seen in all parts of the country up to altitudes of over 2000 m and habitats which include tea estates, where it is common.
953. **Golden Oriole** (*Oriolus oriolus kundoo*).
 "Winter visitor throughout the peninsula ... also northern Sri Lanka".
 This scarce winter visitor may be seen anywhere in the low-country of Sri Lanka, right down to the extreme south, at Colombo, Sigiriya, etc. (CBCN).
988. **Greyheaded Myna** (*Sturnus malabaricus blythii*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. First tentative sight record June 1944 at Colombo ('Loris' III (5): 191). First definite sight record in Sri Lanka from Anuradhapura in January 1984 (CBCN 1984: 1). Small flocks regularly seen there since then. Probably now breeding. Recently also seen at Kalametiya in the far south in the company of Mynas, Rosy Pastors and Brahminy Mynas (CBCN). A new record.
993. **Ceylon Whiteheaded Starling** (*Sturnus senex*).
 "Affects tall forest edges and clearings".
 This endemic species is mainly found in undisturbed, wet evergreen forest, in the upper canopy of tall trees (e.g. Sinharaja); it is most easily seen at the edges of such forest.
1223. **Ceylon Rufousbellied (Whitethroated) Babbler** (*Dumetia hyperythra philipsi*).
 "In scrub and high grassland".
 In Sri Lanka also common in well shaded tea estates.
1407. **Brown Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa latirostris*).
 "... to c. 1500 m".
 This winter visitor can be found up to 2000 m as also the next species, the Brownbreasted Flycatcher (*M. muttui*).
1505. **Franklin's Wren-Warbler** (*Prinia hodgsonii pectoralis*).
 "... up to 900 m".
 This Sri Lankan subspecies now ascends the hills in the eastern aspects (Uva) to c. 1400 m.
1706. **Isabelline Chat** (*Oenanthe isabellina*).
 "Stragglings to ... and Sri Lanka, recorded on passage Mannar 1970".
 Two sight records in 1970 and 1976, both near Mannar (CBCN 1976: 12). It is now believed that both these sightings were of the Pied Chat or Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) No. 1715 (Ceylon Bird Club Rarities Committee).
1710. **Desert Wheatear** (*Oenanthe deserti*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. A reliable sight record in February from Yala in the extreme South (CBCN 1986: 22). A new record.
1838. **Velvetfronted Nuthatch** (*Sitta frontalis frontalis*).
 "... and Sri Lanka ... shade trees in coffee or cardamom plantations".
 In Sri Lanka also common on shade trees in tea plantations and dense montane forest.
1852. **Indian Tree Pipit** (*Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*).
 Sri Lanka not mentioned. In January 1982 Robert Fleming, Jr. reported a flock from Anuradhapura (CBCN 1982: 1). Sight record only. Two more sightings since then in Wilpattu National Park (CBCN 1984: 17 and 1987: 30). A new record.

1885. **White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba dukhunnensis*).

"... occasional in Sri Lanka". This bird has become a regular winter visitor in small numbers. There are sight records from many parts of the low-country (CBCN).

1891. **Large Pied Wagtail** (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*).

"One old record from Sri Lanka".

There have been 3 additional, very reliable sight records: Kandy (CBCN 1976: 77), Delft Island (CBCN 1983: 4), Punkudutivu Island (CBCN 1984: 2).

1893. **Ceylon Thickbilled Flowerpecker** (*Di-caeum agile zeylonense*).

"Resident in Sri Lanka, in the northern forest tracts and in the hills to c. 1200 m".

This Sri Lankan subspecies is most plentiful in the eastern forest tracts (e.g. Gal Oya National Park, Amparai) and also the foothills of the central range in the dry and intermediate zone.

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